

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 107760 TOSEC 040202
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: ARA/CEN:DCJOHNSON

APPROVED BY: ARA:WHLUERS

P-DON TICE

S/S-O:SESTEINER

-----120208Z 038510 /12

P 120041Z MAY 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 107760 TOSEC 040202

EXDIS FOR HABIB FROM LUERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT GUATEMALA 2896 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
LONDON BELIZE USUN DTD 10 MAY

QTE

S E C R E T GUATEMALA 2896

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, GT, UK, BH

SUBJ: BELIZE DISPUTE

REF: STATE 102154, GUATEMALA 2831

1. FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA CALLED ME IN TODAY ON BELIZE. HE
SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED MY APPROACH TO HIM WITH PRESIDENT AND COULD
NOW RESPOND TO OUR INQUIRY REGARDING THEIR MINIMUM TERRITORIAL
POSITION. THIS POSITION, HE SAID, WAS THE MONKEY RIVER. HE THEN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 107760 TOSEC 040202

GAVE ME A PAPER DEFINING THE MONKEY RIVER LINE IN TWO ALTERNA-
TIVES, AS FOLLOWS:

A. FIRST ALTERNATIVE

" LINE STARTING AT THE MOUTH OF THE MONKEY RIVER, UPSTREAM TO ITS
SOURCES AND THEN FOLLOWING THE COURSE OF THE CHIQUIBUL RIVER DOWN

TO THE MERIDIAN LINE OF GARBUTT FALLS AND THEN FOLLOWING THIS LINE STRAIGHT NORTH TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH PARALLEL 17 DEGREES 49 MINUTES."

B. SECOND ALTERNATIVE

"A LINE STARTING AT THE MOUTH OF THE MONKEY RIVER, UPSTREAM TO ITS SOURCES AND THEN THE DIVISION OF WATERS OF THE MAYA MOUNTAINS IN A SOUTHWESTERLY DIRECTION DOWN TO THE MERIDIAN LINE OF GARBUTT FALLS AND FOLLOWING THIS LINE STRAIGHT NORTH TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH PARALLEL 17 DEGREES 49 MINUTES."

2. HE SAID THEY WOULD HAVE A SLIGHT PREFERENCE FOR THE FIRST ALTERNATIVE, WHICH OFFERED GUATEMALA A LITTLE MORE TERRITORY, BUT THEY COULD ACCEPT THE SECOND ALTERNATIVE AS WELL. HE ADDED THAT THEIR POSITION ALSO INVOLVED A CORRIDOR TO THE HIGH SEAS AND SAID HE WOULD GIVE ME A MAP TOMORROW INDICATING THE LIMITS OF THIS CORRIDOR.

3. HE SAID THEY CONSIDER IT VITAL TO HAVE THE BORDER AREA RUN FROM THE MOUTH OF THE MONKEY RIVER BECAUSE THIS WAS THE MINIMUM, REASONABLE POSITION THEY BELIEVED WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE CONGRESS, MILITARY, AND GUATEMALAN PEOPLE. IT WAS WHAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH BELIEVED COULD BE SATISFACTORILY EXPLAINED TO THE PUBLIC, BUT NO LESS THAN THAT COULD BE.

4. I ASKED IF THIS WAS A RIGID, FINAL POSITION. HE SAID IT WAS. HE SAID HE HAD WANTED TO BE SURE OF THIS, TOO, AND HAD CONFIRMED WITH PRESIDENT LAUGERUD THAT IT WAS A FIRM POSITION.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 107760 TOSEC 040202

5. FOREIGN MINISTER REPEATED THAT THEIR POSITION WAS BASED ON THEIR EVALUATION OF WHAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO GUATEMALAN PUBLIC, INCLUDING CONGRESS AND MILITARY, AS AN HONORABLE COMPROMISE. HE SAID EXECUTIVE BRANCH COULD NOT GUARANTEE, OF COURSE, THAT SUCH COMPROMISE WOULD GET THROUGH CONGRESS BUT THEY WOULD USE THEIR BEST EFFORTS TO GET IT THROUGH AND TO WIN PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE FOR IT. HE SAID THIS MATTER WAS SO IMPORTANT TO THEM THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO FLY TO WASHINGTON AT ANY TIME TO MAKE ANY FURTHER EXPLANATION THAT MIGHT BE NECESSARY.

6. COMMENT: AS THIS POSITION REPRESENTS NO CONCESSION FROM GOG'S EARLIER POSITION, BRITISH WILL TAKE NO ENCOURAGEMENT FROM IT. MOREOVER, THERE WAS NO HINT OF FLEXIBILITY IN FONMIN'S STATEMENTS DESCRIBING THEIR POSITIONS; ON THE CONTRARY, HIS STATEMENTS, IF TAKEN AT FACE VALUE, SUGGEST THAT THEY HAVE NO FLEXIBILITY. THEY REINFORCE OUR VIEW (GUATEMALA'S 2263) THAT THE GOG DOES NOT FEEL ABLE TO AGREE TO ANY SETTLEMENT OF

BELIZE DISPUTE--SHORT OF CESSION OF A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF
BELIZE--DURING THE YEAR REMAINING OF LAUGERUD'S TERM OF
OFFICE. NEVERTHELESS, WE NOTE AGAIN THAT BRITISH HAVE NOT
MADE A CONCRETE TERRITORIAL OFFER SINCE GOG'S REJECTON OF
MOHO RIVER LINE IN 1975 AND IT IS AT LEAST POSSIBLE THAT
TABLING BY BRITISH AT THIS TIME OF SPECIFIC COUNTER-OFFER MIGHT
INITIATE A PROCESS OF GARGAINING WHICH COULD EVENTUALLY LEAD
THE TWO SIDES INTO A COMPROMISE SHORT OF THE MONKEY RIVER.

7. WHEN DEPARTMENT CONVEYS THIS RESPONSE TO BRITISH, WE
ASK IT ALSO TO CONSIDER AUTHORIZING US TO INFORM UK CONSUL
MCQUILLAN HERE. MCQUILLAN HAS BEEN A KEY PARTICIPANT IN
CONTACTS ON BELIZE AND HAS BEEN MOST HELPFUL IN KEEPING US
INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.
BOSTER UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, POLICIES, BOUNDARY DETERMINATION, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, BOUNDARY RIVERS, WATER BOUNDARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE107760
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA/CEN:DCJOHNSON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770166-0864
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770565/aaaacdnk.tel
Line Count: 130
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 83c9b695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 102154, 77 GUATEMALA 2831
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2546565
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELIZE DISPUTE
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, GT, UK, BH
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/83c9b695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009